

# Unit two

## Phonetics 1

### English Sounds & Letters

I: RE <u>A</u> D	I S <u>I</u> T	ʊ B <u>O</u> OK	u: T <u>O</u> O	Iə H <u>E</u> RE	eɪ D <u>A</u> Y	John & Sarah Free Materials 1996	
e M <u>E</u> N	ə A <u>M</u> ERICA	ɜ: W <u>O</u> RD	ɔ: S <u>O</u> R	ʊə T <u>O</u> UR	ɔɪ B <u>O</u> Y	əʊ G <u>O</u>	
æ C <u>A</u> T	ʌ B <u>U</u> T	ɑ: P <u>A</u> R	ɒ N <u>O</u> T	eə W <u>E</u> AR	aɪ M <u>Y</u>	aʊ H <u>O</u> W	
p P <u>I</u> G	b B <u>E</u> D	t T <u>I</u> ME	d D <u>O</u>	tʃ CH <u>U</u> RCH	dʒ J <u>U</u> DGE	k K <u>I</u> LO	g G <u>O</u>
f F <u>I</u> VE	v V <u>E</u> RY	θ TH <u>I</u> NK	ð TH <u>E</u>	s S <u>I</u> X	z Z <u>O</u> O	ʃ SH <u>O</u> R	ʒ CAS <u>A</u> UAL
m M <u>I</u> LK	n N <u>O</u>	ŋ S <u>I</u> NG	h H <u>E</u> LL	l L <u>I</u> VE	r R <u>E</u> AD	w W <u>I</u> N	j Y <u>E</u> S

# English Sounds & Letters



## Unit Aims:

- To explain the differences between letters and sounds
- To show that the English sounds outnumber the English letters.
- To show how the same sound can be represented by different letters. To demonstrate that the same letter combination have different pronunciation.
- To train students to look up the pronunciation of different words.

# English Sounds & Letters



How many letters do we have in English?

There are 26 letters.

They are known as English Alphabets.

Alphabet Pronunciation				
Listen to the Alphabet Song.				
A	B	C	D	E
[eɪ]	[bi:]	[si:]	[di:]	[i:]
F	G	H	I	J
[ef]	[dʒi:]	[eɪtʃ]	[aɪ]	[dʒeɪ]
K	L	M	N	O
[keɪ]	[el]	[em]	[en]	[əʊ]
P	Q	R	S	T
[pi:]	[kju:]	[ɑ:]	[es]	[ti:]
U	V	W		
[ju:]	[vi:]	[ˈdʌbəlju:]		
X	Y	Z		
[eks]	[waɪ]	[zed/zi:]		

# 1- English Letters

Is it true that each letter stand for one sound in English?

The Answer is NO!!

Some letters such as (c) can be:

/s/ in cinema

/k/ in car.

Do sounds and letters always correspond??

**Let's try to examine this hypothesis!!!!**

## 2- English Sounds and Letters

In writing we say that a word consists of letters; whereas in speech we say that a word is made up of sounds. For example:

- l. a. u. g. h
- /l/ /a:/ /f/

What do you think:

Are there more letters or

Sounds in English?

Symbols between slashes / / or brackets [ ]  
are referred to as sounds.



## 2- English Sounds and Letters

- Dealing with various types of sound is called **Phonetics**.
- The word **Phonetics** is derived from the word phone which means sound
- Phonetics is defines as the study of the sounds of a language

## 2- English Sounds and Letters

Are there more **Sounds** or **Letters** in English?

- ✓ 26 letters

- ✓ 44 sounds

- ✓ What does this mean???

# Sounds in English ☹ PP 18-19

ɪ READ	ɪ SIT	ʊ BOOK	u: TOO	ɪə HERE	eɪ DAY	John & Sarah Free Materials 1996	
e MEN	ə AMERICA	ɜ: WORD	ɔ: SORT	ʊə TOUR	ɔɪ BOY	əʊ GO	
æ CAT	ʌ BUT	ɑ: PART	ɒ NOT	eə WEAR	aɪ MY	aʊ HOW	
p PIG	b BED	t TIME	d DO	tʃ CHURCH	dʒ JUDGE	k KILO	g GO
f FIVE	v VERY	θ THINK	ð THE	s SIX	z ZOO	ʃ SHORT	ʒ CASUAL
m MILK	n NO	ŋ SING	h HELLO	l LIVE	r READ	w WINDOW	j YES



## 2- English Sounds and Letters

- ʃ = sheep- she – push – sugar -
- ʒ = beige- pleasure -
- tʃ = **ch**ild – - fut**ure** - pun**ch** – peach**ch**
- dʒ = brid**ge** - **j**ump - **j**unior
- θ = **th**umb – **th**ree -birth**day** – breath**th**
- ð = **th**is – bro**th**er – breathe – **th**en
- ŋ = E**ng**lish- wing – bring – Think
- j = **y**esterday – **y**es– u**n**iversity- **E**urope

## 2- English Sounds and Letters

- Spoken English has variation in its pronunciation. Not all English speakers pronounce English sounds and words the same.
- Received Pronunciation (RP) { for British }
- General American { for the United States }
- General Australian { for Australia }

## 2- English Sounds and Letters

- If you face any difficulty in pronouncing, consult: <http://www.howjsay.com>. As pointed out in the introductory unit above, this is a **pronouncing** dictionary.
- All you need to do is type in the word you want to listen to and,
- after clicking **submit**,
- you can hear how the word is spoken by a native speaker.
- Look at the table on PP 18-19 and find the differences between the shaded and the unshaded part.

# English Sounds and Letters

I. Some letters stand for one sound.

**/k/** in kitchen

**/b/** in book

II. Some letters sometimes can be silent (not pronounced)

Ex: **k**night, lam**b**

# English Sounds and Letters

III. Some letters may be pronounced in more than one way

The letter s may stand for the sound:

/s/ as in **s**at, **s**treet, joke**s**

/z/ as in ha**s**, bag**s**, car**s**

/ʃ/ as in **s**ugar, **s**ure

/ʒ/ as in plea**s**ure , mea**s**ure , trea**s**ure,

# English Sounds and Letters

IV. There are certain consonant sounds that are represented by a combination of two consonants like:

**/ð/** this , that, there

**/θ/** think, thin

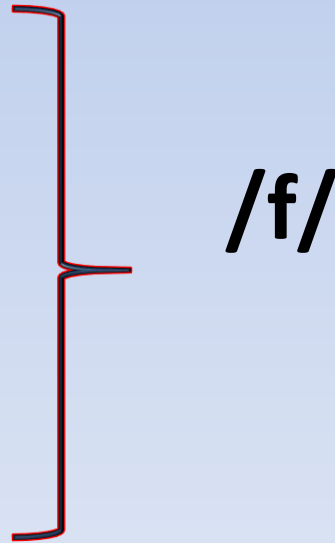
**/tʃ/** chain, chin, check, chimney

**/ʃ/** Sheep, she, shoe, shutter

# English Sounds and Letters

V. There are sounds that are represented by different letters.

- **f**at
- **E****ff**ort
- **p**hoto
- **e**nou**gh**



# English Sounds and Letters

V. There are other sounds that are represented by different letters .

He

Police

Sea

Seek

Receive

Key

grief

/i:/



# English Sounds and Letters

NOTE THAT:

There is no one- to one correspondence between letters and sounds in English.

Question:

Is there a one to one correspondence between sounds and letters in Arabic??

# Exercise (1)

The letter combination **ch** can be pronounced as either /k/ or /tʃ/:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. chest;     | 2. chimney; |
| 3. chair ;    | 4. channel; |
| 5. challenge; | 6. cherry;  |
| 7. cheese;    | 8. chorus.  |

# Exercise (2)

Match the sounds of the underlined letters in the first column with the sounds in the second column.

1. watches <u>s</u>	/t/
2. walk <u>e</u> d	/r/
3. smil <u>e</u> d	/z/
4. <u>w</u> rite	/s/
5. paint <u>s</u>	/zero/ [not pronounced, silent letter]
6. <u>c</u> ereals	/f/
7. hal <u>f</u>	/d/
8. coug <u>h</u>	/l/
9. tool <u>s</u>	
10. caught <u>t</u>	

# Thank you